



Corvettes and Automotive Technology

The History of Corvette

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Corvette: The First Generation

C1 1953-1962 

C1 – 1953 -1962

- **1953** - Chevrolet reveals Corvette dream car Jan. 17, 1953 at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in NYC. Car known as XP-122
 - First production Corvette rolls off assembly line – June 30, 1953 in Flint, MI.
 - Production capped at 300 units
 - All Polo White w/ red interior
 - Powered by 150 HP, three carb inline six with two-speed Powerglide transmission

C1 – 1953 -1962

- **1954** – Corvette production begins at GM's St. Louis Mo. facility on Jan. 1st
 - Color choices expanded to include Pennant Blue, Sportsman Red and Black
 - Beige added as an interior color
 - Powered bumped to 155 HP,
 - Just 3640 Corvettes produced

C1 – 1953 -1962

- **1955** – Chevy V8 first appears
 - 265 cubic inch V8 with 195 HP
 - Three speed manual transmission optional
 - Production drops to 700 units
- **1956** – Removable hardtop offered as option
 - Seatbelts offered as a factory option
 - Two 4 barrel carbs enhance 265 cubic inch V8 to 225 HP

C1 – 1953 -1962

- **1957** – V8 grows to 283 cubic inches
 - 283 cubic inch V8 with 185 HP (Base engine)
 - Four speed manual transmission with fuel injection optional
 - So equipped, V8 produces 283 HP (1 HP per CI)
- **1958 - 1962** – Minor styling changes
 - Engine displacement grows to 327 cubic inches in 1962
 - Last year for solid rear axle and (until 2005) exposed headlights

Corvette: The Second
Generation



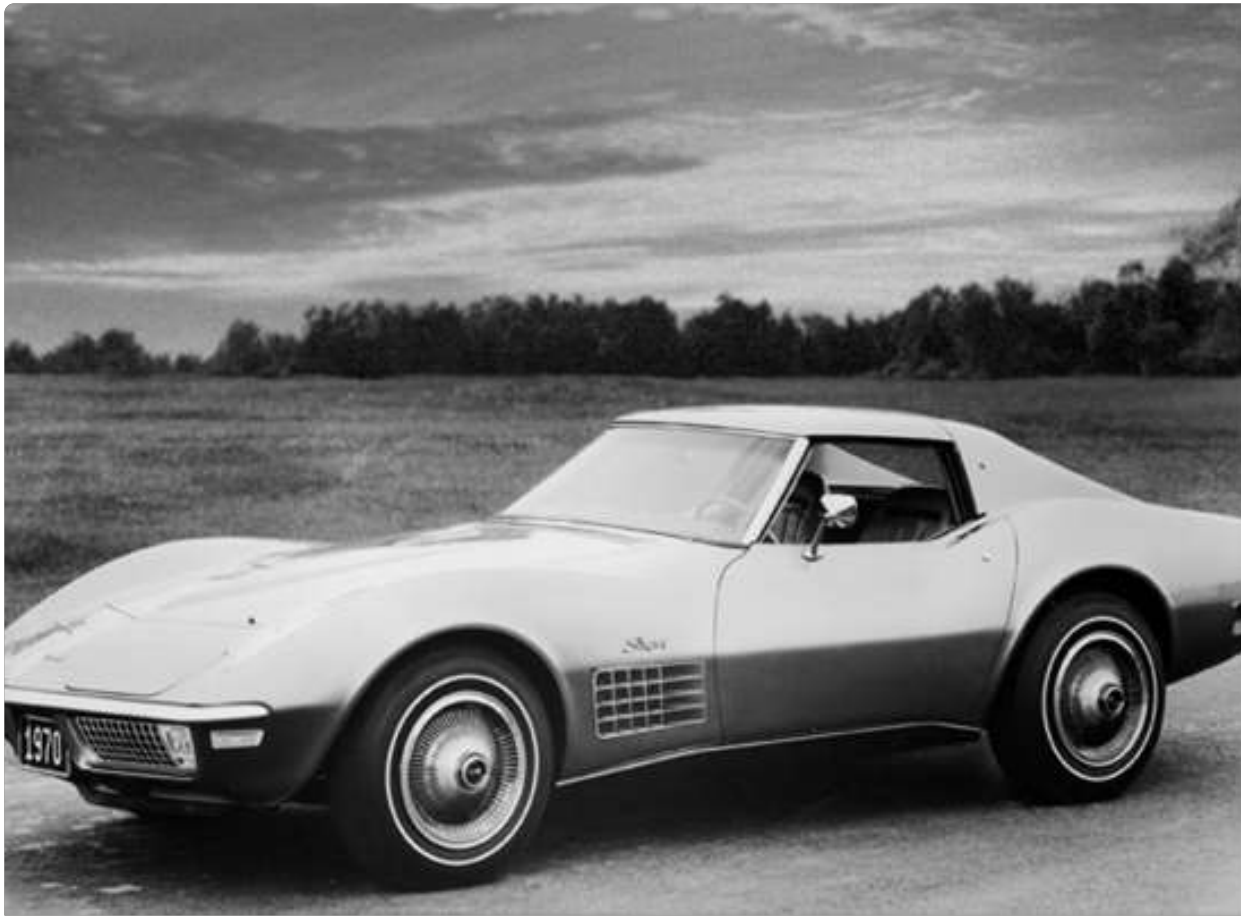
C2 1963-1967 

C2 – 1963 -1967

- **1963-1964** – The Stingray arrives
 - 1963 “split window” fastback – one year only design
 - Hidden headlamps define the body style until 2005
 - Independent rear suspension w/ single transverse leaf spring
 - Electronic ignition offered as an option
- **1965** – The big block V-8 arrives
 - 396 cubic inch engine option producing 425 HP
 - Four wheel disk brakes become standard

C2 – 1963 -1967

- **1966** – The big block grows to 427 cubic inches
 - Output listed as 450 HP
 - Backup lamps and Holley carbs standard
- **1967** – The last year for C2 production
 - Legendary “L88” cast iron big block introduced
 - Independent testing concluded output at 560 HP
 - Dual master cylinder braking system standard



Corvette: The third
Generation

C3 1968-1982 

C3 – 1968 -1982

- **1968** – Third generation starts 14 year run
 - Removable T-top introduced on the Coupe
 - 427 cubic inch 435 HP tri-power engine option
 - The Sting Ray name disappears
- **1969** – The 250,000 Corvette rolls off the line
 - The Stingray name returns as one word as opposed to the C2's "Sting Ray"

C3 – 1968 -1982

- **1970-1972** – Engine displacement grows again
 - Big-block grows to 454 cubic inches
 - 390 HP solid lifter LT1 small block debuts
 - 1971 Corvettes designed to run on unleaded fuels
 - Factory installed theft-deterrent system becomes standard 1972
- **1973** – The end of the chrome bumper era
 - Body colored, 5 mph – crash compliant nose replaces front chrome bumper – rear bumper still chrome plated
 - Radial tires become standard

C3 – 1968 -1982

- **1974-1977** – Energy crisis affects Corvette
 - 1974 – Last year for 454 big-block
 - 1975 – Final year for convertible until 1986
 - Catalytic converters introduced in 1975
 - Stock 350 cubic inch V-8 offers depressing 165 HP
- **1978** – Corvette 25th anniversary
 - Two tone silver/black limited edition Indy 500 pace car replica introduced
 - 6500 copies produced - \$4301.32 extra cost option over the \$9351.89 base price

C3 – 1968 -1982

- **1979-1982** – C3 era winds down
 - 1979 – 53,807 Corvettes produced – all time sales record
 - 1980 – New front and rear plastic bumpers with integrated spoiler improve drag coefficient
 - 1981 – Corvette production moves to Bowling Green, KY
 - 1982 – Last year of C3 production – 6759 Collector edition Corvettes w/ silver/beige paint and opening rear hatch
- **1983** – The year that never was
 - No 1983 Corvettes were officially built
 - 43 prototypes built – none sold to the general public
 - Only one in existence at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY



Corvette: The forth
Generation

C4 1984-1996 

C4 – 1984 -1996

- **1984** – A fresh start in design and performance
 - Introduced in March 1983 as a 1984 model
 - New slippery exterior
 - Forged aluminum control arms, power rack and pinion steering, 24% improvement in drag coefficient
 - Cross fire injection engine produced 205 HP and 290 lb-ft of torque
 - One piece removable roof panel on coupe
 - Digital LCD instrumentation standard
 - 750,000 Corvette produced on Oct. 26, 1983
 - Base price was \$21,800 and 51,547 Vettes were produced

C4 – 1984 -1996

- **1985** – The second year C4 debuts
 - 5.7 liter V-8 debuts with tuned port injection
 - Output increases to 230 HP
- **1986** - The Convertible returns
 - Corvette paces the Indy 500 again
 - 7315 “pace car replica” convertibles are produced
 - Antilock brakes (ABS) are standard

C4 – 1984 -1996

- **1987-1989** – HP continues to climb
 - 5.7 liter V-8 output increases to 240 HP
 - Callaway twin turbo setup (\$19,995 option) produces 345 HP and 465 lb-ft of torque
 - 2050 35th anniversary editions produced in 1988
 - ZF/Chevrolet six speed manual transmission offered in 1989
- **1990** - The Corvette ZR-1 debuts
 - 5.7 liter V-8 ZR-1 engine boasts 4 camshafts and 32 valves and produces 375 HP
 - \$27,016 option on top of the base cars \$31,979 MSRP
 - Driver's side airbag becomes standard

C4 – 1984 -1996

- **1991-1995** – New Engines and Special Editions
 - 1991- First major body restyle since 1984
 - New standard 300 HP 5.7 liter small block V-8 debuts in 1992
 - One-millionth Corvette rolls off assembly line July 2,1992
 - Ruby Red 40th anniversary model introduced in 1993
 - ZR-1 output increases to 405 HP
 - Corvette paces the Indy 500 for the 3rd time in 1995
 - ZR-1 concludes its 5 year run with 6939 examples produced
- **1996** – The final year for C4 production
 - Special Collector's Edition and Grand Sport models available
 - 350 cubic inch LT4 small block is rated at 330 HP
 - Optional Selective Real Time Dampening suspension system appears for the first time



Corvette: The fifth
Generation

C5 1997-2004 

C5 – 1997 - 2004

- **1997 – The Next Generation begins**
 - 345 HP LS1 V-8 features an all aluminum block
 - All new aerodynamic body style
 - New backbone frame, a rear transaxle, engine moved behind the front suspension for increased handling
 - Only available as a coupe
- **1998 – 2000 - Additional Body styles offered**
 - The convertible returns for 1998
 - Corvette paces Indy for the fourth time
 - A Hardtop joins the lineup in 1999
 - Heads up Instrument Display option offered in 1999
 - Standard Active Keyless entry introduced in 2000

C5 – 1997 – 2004

- **2001 – The Z06 is introduced**

- 385 HP LS6 V-8 standard on Z06 model
- Top Speed of more than 170 mph
- Hits 0 – 60 mph in 4.3 seconds
- Only available as a coupe

- **2002 – 2004 - Additional refinements**

- The HP for Z06 increases to 405 in 2002
- Active Handling and Traction Control standard on all Corvettes
- 50th Anniversary model introduced in 2003 with special red paint, unique two-tone shale interior, special emblems and Magnetic Select Ride Control
- Some models receive carbon fiber hood in 2004, the first use of a painted carbon-fiber panel for a production vehicle in NA



Corvette: The sixth
Generation

C6 2005-2013



C6 – 2005 - 2013

- **2005 – Shorter, Lighter, Faster**

- Total exterior and interior redesign
- All new 6.0 liter 400 HP LS2 V-8 is standard
- C6 – First Corvette with exposed headlights since 1962

- **2006 – 2007 – A Redesigned Z06 Returns**

- The Z06 features an aluminum frame, fixed magnesium engine cradle and carbon-fiber appointments
- New 7.0 liter small block V8 produces 505 HP and 470 lb-ft of torque
- Six speed paddle shift automatic transmission introduced for all standard Corvettes

C6 – 2005 - 2013

- **2008 – Horsepower on the rise**
 - All new 6.2 liter LS3 V-8 is the base engine
 - Horsepower increases from 400 to 430 HP
 - Corvette paces the Indy 500 again
- **2009 – The new Corvette ZR1 debuts**
 - The ZR1 features a Supercharged 6.2 liter LS9 V8 with a top speed of 205 mph
 - Engine output is 638 HP and 595 lb-ft of torque
 - 0-60 mph in 3.4 seconds

C6 – 2005 – 2013

- **2010 - 2012 – Additional models introduced**

- Grand Sport model returns in 2010 with wider body panels than base model Corvettes
- Seven models available in 2011 including the Z06 Carbon Limited Edition
- Chevrolet celebrates it's 100th birthday in 2012 with a Centennial Edition package with special black paint, graphics, wheels and interior trim
- Corvette paces the Indy 500 again

- **2013 – The 60th Anniversary of Corvette**

- A 60th Anniversary package is introduced with a one year only 427 cubic inch engine in coupe or convertible
- Sprints from 0 – 60 mph in 3.9 seconds



Corvette: The seventh
Generation

C7 2014- 

C7 – 2014 - Present

- **2014 – The C7 Corvette Stingray debuts**
 - All new 6.2 liter naturally aspirated 455 HP LT1 V-8 is standard
 - New seven speed Tremec manual transmission standard
 - Hood and roof made of carbon-fiber
 - Optional Z51 package features electronical controlled limited slip diff., dry sump lubrication, additional cooling for brakes, differential and gear box
- **2015 – Corvette achieves Super Car status**
 - The Z06 returns in 2015 with all new supercharged LT4 V8 producing 650 HP and 650 lb-ft of torque
 - Available as a Coupe and Convertible
 - 0 – 60 mph in 2.9 seconds

C7 – 2014 - Present

- **2016 – The C7 Continues**

- Optional all new eight speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters offered
- New colors, Corvette Racing Yellow and Long Beach Red introduced

- **2017 – Grand Sport Model Returns**

- The Grand Sport model returns in 2017 with many of the features found in the Z06 model except the LT4 supercharged engine
- New colors, Silver Blue Metallic, Watkins Glen Grey and Black Rose Metallic introduced

Questions ???



**Thank you for your
Attention**

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